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STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
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REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE FIFTH CONFERENCE

Report by the Russian Federation**

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The Committee on Geodesy and Cartography of the Ministry for Ecology and Natural Resources of the Russian Federation is a successor of the Main Administration of Geodesy and Cartography of the Council of Ministers of the USSR in the territory of Russia.

During the past five years (1987-1991) activities of the Permanent Joint Commission on Geographical Names were directed towards the following:

(a) Establishment and publication of compulsory directives (manuals, guidelines etc.) on standardization of geographical names;

(b) Production and publication of standard dictionaries of geographical names of countries and regions;

(c) Decisions on naming and renaming of geographical features;

(d) Provision of cartographic and other editions with standard names (practical transcription).

Standard manuals and guidelines

During the period under review the Practical Manual on Naming and Renaming of Geographical Features of the USSR (Moscow, 1987) was produced and published, as well as guidelines for the Russian rendering of geographical names of: Hungary (Moscow, 1988); Mongolia (Moscow, 1988); Latvia (Moscow, 1989); and names of urban features of France (Moscow, 1989).

In 1991 a detailed annotated bibliography of documents on standardization of geographical names issued by the Cartographic and Geodetic Service of this country was compiled for the first time. It is now in publication. The bibliography contains information on all manuals, guidelines, dictionaries and other publications on geographical names issued from 1939 to 1990 (in 1939 the first document of this kind was published). Furthermore, current documents are indicated by indented lines.

In 1992 the elaboration of new guidelines for the Russian rendering of geographical names of Moldova was begun. It became necessary when the Moldavian language was romanized.

Dictionaries of geographical names

In the same years, standard dictionaries of geographical names of the following countries and territories were compiled and published:

Australia (Moscow, 1986, 4,000 entries);
Antarctica (Moscow, 1987, 6,000 entries);
Yakut ASSR (Moscow, 1987, 10,000 entries);
Afghanistan (Moscow, 1988, 3,000 entries);

Bashkir ASSR (Moscow, 1988, 3,000 entries);
Viet Nam (Moscow, 1988, 3,500 entries);
Laos (Moscow, 1988, 2,500 entries);
Romania (Moscow, 1988, 5,000 entries);
Komi ASSR (Syktyvkar, 1990, 2,500 entries).

There were prepared for publication standard dictionaries of geographical names of the Commonwealth of Independent States and adjacent republics, Hungary and undersea features of the oceans. Compilation of dictionaries has been started of hydrographic features, names of the Russian Federation and nearby States and foreign European names.

Among local unofficial publications the following should be mentioned for example:

Geographical Names of the Urals: A Concise Toponymic Dictionary (Sverdlovsk, 1987)

Geographical Names of Vologodskaja Oblast: Toponymic Dictionary (Arkhangelsk, 1988)

Dictionary of Geographical Names of Kirghiz SSR (Frunze, 1988)

Dictionary of Toponyms of Armenia and Adjacent Regions in the Armenian language (Yerevan, 1988)

Toponymic Dictionary of the North-East of the USSR (Magadan, 1989)

Names of Populated Places and Residents of Latvia in the Lettish language (Riga, 1990)

Naming of geographical features

During recent years restoration of original names of cities, settlements, administrative units and other geographical features has been widely practised.

Thus, original names were returned to the following populated places, oblast and regions:

Russia

Andropov returned to its former name Rybinsk

Brežnev - Naberežnye Čelny

Georgiu-Dež - Liski

Gor'kij - Nižnij Novgorod

Gor'kovskaja oblast' - Nižegorodskaja oblast'

Zagorsk - Sergiev Posad

Zagorskij rajon (region) - Sergievo-Posadskij rajon

Kalinin - Tver'

Kalininskaja oblast' - Tverskaja oblast'

Kujbyšev - Samara

Kujbyševskaja oblast' - Samarskaja oblast'

Leningrad - Sankt Peterburg

Ordžonikidze - Vladikavkaz

Sverdlovsk - Ekaterinburg

Ustinov - Iževsk

Černenko - Šarypovo

Ukraine

Vorošilovograd - Lugansk

Vorošilovogradskaja oblast' - Luganskaja oblast'

Gotval'd - Zmiev

Gotval'dskij rajon - Zmievskij rajon

Ždanov - Mariupol'

Karlo-Libknehtovsk - Soledar

Georgia

Gedečkori - Martvili

Gegeckorskij rajon - Martvil'skij rajon

Maharadze - Ozurgeti

Maharadzevskij rajon - Ozurgetskij rajon

Majakovskij - Bagdati

Majakovskij rajon - Bagdatskij rajon

Ordžonikidze - Haragauli

Ordžonikidzevskij rajon - Haragaul'skij rajon

Culukidze - Honi

Culukidzevskij rajon - Honskij rajon

Chakaja - Senaki

Chakaevskij rajon - Senakskij rajon

Azerbaijan

Vartašen - Oguz
Vartašenskij rajon - Oguzskij rajon
Ždanovsk - Bejlagan
Ždanovskij rajon - Bejlaganskij rajon
Kasum - Ismailov - Gëranboj
Kasum - Ismailovskij rajon - Gëranbojskij rajon
Kirovobad - Gjandža
Kutkašen - Gabelja
Kutkašenskij rajon - Gabelinskij rajon
Mir-Bašir - Terter
Mir-Baširskij rajon - Terterskij rajon
Puškino - Biljasuvar
Puškinskij rajon - Biljasuvarskij rajon

Moldova

Dumbraveny - Kèjnar'
Dumbravenskij rajon - Kèjnarskij rajon
Kalininsk - Kupčin'
Kotovsk - Hynčešt'
Kotovskij rajon - rajon Hynčešt'
Kutuzov - Jaloven'
Kutuzovskij rajon - Jalovenskij rajon
Lazovsk - Synžerej
Lazovskij rajon - rajon Synžerej
Suvorovo - Štefan-Vodè
Suvorovskij rajon - rajon Štefan-Vodè
Černenko - Šoldènešt'
Černenkovskij rajon - Šoldèneštskij rajon

Armenia

Azizbekov - Vajk
Azizbekovskij rajon - Vajkskij rajon
Sovetašen - Nubarašen

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Kyrgyzstan

Rybačij - Issyk-Kul

Frunze - Biškek

Tajikistan

Leninabad - Hudžand

Leningradskij rajon - Muminobodskij rajon and many other features

As a rule proposals for name-giving and renaming of populated places and administrative units in the Russian Federation, and of geographical features in the former USSR, are expertly approved and authorized by the Permanent Joint Commission. The Commission provides agencies and organizations with information on newly given names. Thus, for example, it distributed three lists of the names in 1991-1992. Starting with March of 1992 the lists will be published for public consideration in the journal Geodezija i kartografija (Geodesy and Cartography).

Practical transcription

Field work was carried out to respond to the requirements of base map 1:2,500,000 and The World Atlas (3rd edition). Geographical names for the Atlas were rendered not only in Russian but also in roman script for international usage.

New situation - new tasks

Disintegration of the USSR into separate sovereign States, formation of the Commonwealth by a number of them and other recent changes have naturally put forward the problem of organizing the programme for standardization of geographical names in a new situation. By the end of 1992, establishment of a republican geographical name authority should be completed. One of its tasks will be cooperation with corresponding authorities in the State members of the Commonwealth of Independent States and other organizations.